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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/932,915	08/20/2001	Kazuhiko Yamauchi	NAK1-AZ37b	9300

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUY THANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

DATE MAILED: 10/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/932,915

Applicant(s)

YAMAUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

HUY T. NGUYEN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE and amendment filed 06 September.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 35-39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20051015.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06 September 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

4. Claims 30-34 direct to information stored n a medium . Since the information do not provide any functional interrelationship to the medium for controlling the medium or accessing the information on the medium, or impart to any software and hardware structural components to provide certain function that is processed by a computer, the information stored the medium do not make them statutory . See MPEP 2100.

It is noted that there e is no means or circuit recited in body of claims 30-33 to interact with the information to perform any function to control medium or access

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information. Therefore the information stored on the medium are mere non functional information.

Double Patenting

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claim 29 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the difference between claims 27 of the present application and claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002 is that claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002 recites a first flag and a second flag for controlling the sequence of reproduction of a video title and claim 29 of the present application recites reproduction information for controlling a sequence of the a video title. However, it is noted that it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that the first flag and second flag being recited in claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002 can be used as reproduction information recited in claim 29 of the present application since the first flag and

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second flag indicating the status of a video title to be reproduced in a sequence .

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002 by changing the first flag and second flag to produce claim 27 of the present application .

7. Claim 30 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the difference between claim 30 of the present application and claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002 is that claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,002 further recites means for reproducing the stored information from the medium .

However, it is noted that eliminating parts is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art .

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify claim 10 by eliminating means used for reproducing the stored information and to produce claim 30 of the present application.

8. Claim 29 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,334.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the difference between claims 29 of the present application and claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,334 is that claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,334 recites a first flag and a second flag for controlling the sequence of reproduction of a video title and claim 29 of the present application recites reproduction information

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for controlling a sequence of the a video title. However, it is noted that it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that the first flag and second flag being recited in claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,334 can be used as reproduction information recited in claim 29 of the present application since the first flag and second flag indicating the status of a video title to be reproduced in a sequence. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,334 changing the first flag and second flag to produce claim 29 of the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 35-39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7378. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM -6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

H.N


HUY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER